

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

This is a continuation of Application No. 09/849,531 filed May 7, 2001; the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph bridging between pages 7 and 8 with the following:

In accordance with an eleventh aspect of the present invention, there is provided a wide-area high-resolution image generation system comprising a processing device which is connected to a capture device whose capturing direction and zoom ratio are ~~controllable~~ variable. The processing device includes a total image acquisition means, an image structure analysis means, a sub-image acquisition means, an image connection means, an image extraction means and a wide-area high-resolution image generation means. The total image acquisition means captures a target object of the generation of a wide-area high-resolution image by use of the capture device and thereby acquires a total image of the target object. The image structure analysis means conducts image structure analysis to the total image of the target object, and thereby extracts structural elements from the total image and obtains position information of each structural element. The sub-image acquisition means conducts a sub-image acquisition process for one or more of the structural elements. In the sub-image acquisition process, one or more partial areas and a resolution to be used for capturing the structural element are determined and sub-images of the partial areas of the structural element are acquired by the capture device with the determined resolution. The image connection means conducts an image connection process for each of the structural elements to which the sub-image acquisition process has been

conducted. In the image connection process, the sub-images of the partial areas of the structural element are connected together by use of image information of the sub-images and thereby an image of the structural element having the determined resolution is obtained as a synthesis target image. The image extraction means conducts an image extraction process for each of the structural elements to which the sub-image acquisition process has not been conducted. In the image extraction process, part of the total image corresponding to the structural element is extracted from the total image as a synthesis target image. The wide-area high-resolution image generation means synthesizes the synthesis target images of the structural elements obtained in the image connection process and the image extraction process so that relative position relationship of the synthesis target images will be the same as that of the structural elements in the total image of the target object based on the position information of the structural elements obtained by the image structure analysis means, and thereby obtains a wide-area high-resolution image of the target object.